

July 22, 2024

The Honorable Sam Graves
Chairman
House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee
2165 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rick Larsen
Ranking Member
House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee
2163 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Graves and Ranking Member Larsen:

On behalf of the National Water Resources Association (NWRA), I am writing to express our strong support for H.R. 8812, *the Water Resources Development Act of 2024*. We commend the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee for its bipartisan efforts in crafting and advancing this vital legislation, which addresses critical needs for our nation's water infrastructure.

The NWRA is a nonprofit organization representing the collective interests of agricultural, municipal, and industrial water users. Dating back to the 1890s and formally established in 1932, NWRA has evolved to address a broad range of water policy issues, including water quality and environmental protection. Today, NWRA stands as a strong federation of state associations and caucuses representing a diverse array of water supply interests, making it the oldest and most active national association concerned with water resources policy and development.

We particularly support the inclusion of the water supply mission within the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) mandate, as outlined in the WRDA 2024. This addition is a significant and timely enhancement that recognizes the essential role of water supply in supporting our communities, agricultural activities, industrial operations, and overall economic vitality.

Incorporating water supply into USACE's mission will enable a more holistic approach to water resources management. This is especially important in the arid West, where prolonged drought continues to devastate communities, agricultural activities, and industries. Ensuring that all aspects of our water infrastructure—from flood control and storm protection to navigation and ecosystem restoration—are integrated, is critical to providing reliable and sustainable water supplies. We believe this will lead to more resilient and adaptable water systems capable of meeting current and future demands.

The NWRA looks forward to the passage of the Water Resources Development Act of 2024 and is ready to support the implementation of its provisions. We believe this legislation will significantly contribute to the enhancement of our water resources infrastructure, promoting conservation, resiliency, and environmental sustainability.

Thank you for your leadership and commitment to addressing the critical water resource needs of our nation.

Sincerely,



Craig Simpson
President
NWRA